

MC DOWELL (E.)

A SKETCH OF THE LIFE

OF

J. EDWIN MICHAEL, M.D.,

BALTIMORE, MD.

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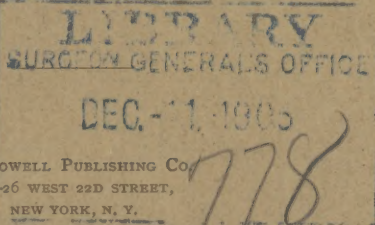
BIOGRAPHY OF EPHRAIM McDOWELL, M.D.,

WITH

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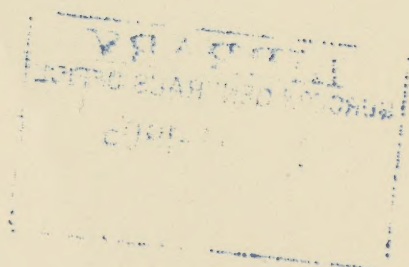
PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

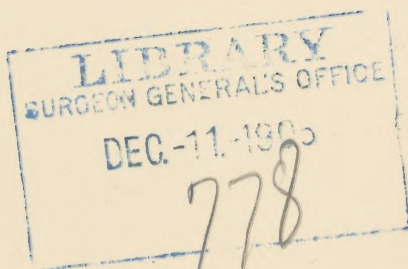
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J. Edwin Michael

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Baltimore, Md.

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DR. JACOB EDWIN MICHAEL was born near Michaelsville, Harford County, Maryland, on May 13, 1848. He was the eldest son of the late Jacob J. Michael, a most respected citizen and large land-owner of Harford County, Md. He was reared on his father's farm near the Chesapeake Bay, amidst natural surroundings of great beauty. Force and character thus were given to his early life, which developed the marked characteristics of his later life.

As a boy he had passed much of his time on the shores and waters of the Chesapeake. He ever after loved a seafaring life. His tastes were rural, and he keenly enjoyed his frequent visits to the home of his boyhood.

He received his preliminary education at St. Timothy's Hall, Maryland, and at the Newark Academy, Delaware. He next entered Princeton College, from which he was graduated in 1871. Whilst at Princeton he was distinguished for his skill in all of the athletic exercises of the college. At the time of his graduation, and when in thorough physical training, he was probably the most superb specimen of physical manhood ever graduated from Princeton.

He entered the Medical Department of the University of Maryland in October, 1871, and was graduated in March, 1873. As a medical student he was greatly admired and easily stood in the front rank, being the leader of one of the college factions for the presidency of the class. After graduation he went abroad and passed the subsequent year in study in the best Continental hospitals and schools.

His foreign study was of great advantage in an educational way, and exercised a large influence in the development of his professional career. It early opened to him the doorway to professional advancement, and whilst other men of his class were toiling for professional recognition he at once stepped to the front rank and to distinguished professional honors.

In the fall of 1874, soon after his return from Europe, he was appointed Demonstrator of Anatomy in the University of Maryland. This position at once offered opportunities for advancement, and in 1880 he was promoted to the Chair of Anatomy and Clinical Surgery. He thus early entered upon a career as a surgeon and teacher which brought to him both success and distinction.

As a surgeon he was cool, painstaking, and skillful, and in a few years had taken a high rank as an operator.

As a teacher he was a success from the beginning. His command of language and his delivery were of a high order, so that he became at once an exceedingly popular lecturer and teacher. He was well equipped for professional work.

In 1887 he was elected Dean of the Faculty of the University, which position he continued to hold up to the date of his death, which occurred December 7, 1895.



In 1890 he resigned the Chair of Anatomy and Clinical Surgery and was elected to the Chair of Obstetrics.

He edited the *Maryland Medical Journal* for six or eight months. He was elected President of the Clinical Society of Maryland and occupied the office for one year. At the meeting of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland, in April of the year 1895, he was honored with the Presidency of the Faculty.

Dr. Michael's courage, helpfulness, and unselfishness led him to speak lightly of his ailments, and very few, if any, but those very close to him, were aware of this serious condition of his health. He had always been proud of his great physical vigor, and was reluctant to accept the indications of chronic disease undermining his health. He continued actively at his professional duties when many men of less courage and pride would have found comfort in freedom from care and work. He struggled to the last, as he had worked during his entire professional life, proud, courageous, and anxious to measure up to his responsibilities. But, with a courage which few possess, he yielded to the law of nature's God that obedience and resignation which belong to the strong and great. If he had pain and regrets, in the contemplation of his early end, they were born of concern and love for others and not for himself. He was a most devoted husband and father.

Dr. Michael was a man of striking physical, intellectual, and personal characteristics. As he towered above the great mass of mankind in stature, so in character and intellect he stood above the shoulders of the great majority. His mind was vigorous, active, and strong. His

judgment of men, of events and subjects was broad and accurate. His opinions were carefully formed, just, and positive. He was narrow in no sense, but broad, liberal, and tolerant. There was none of the sham and pretence in his make-up. He was firm and decided in his convictions, and upheld them with courage and tenacity.

His mind was dominated by a large intelligence, which recognized the highest claims of professional duty, of citizenship, and of friendship.

Dr. Michael was a member of the American Surgical Association, of the Southern Surgical and Gynæcological Association, of the American Medical Association, and of the various local medical societies in Baltimore. He was also a member of the University Club and of the Monthly Medical Reunion.

Dr. Michael was married to Miss Susie Mitchell, of Harford County, in December, 1875. Six children have blessed this union, four sons and two daughters.









